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November 30, 2004

Dear Miss Austen:

How do you capture the life and thoughts of a young girl so well? I was engrossed in the book within minutes of starting it. Like Elizabeth, I grew by the end of the book. I thank you for writing it.

Your book is timely. I am eleven years old and starting to learn about myself and the world. I moved from a small, private school to a large, public school this year. As a result, I am meeting and dealing with people from a lot of different backgrounds and experiences for the first time.

Of all the characters, I identified myself with Elizabeth the most. Like her, I am intelligent and forthright, but I see the world in simple terms. As Elizabeth learned the truth about Wickham and Darcy, I am beginning to understand that there is more under the surface that is unknown. I have also realized that I might be quick to judge people and wonder whether I am making the right friends at school. I am viewing my parents, sister, teachers, and friends differently too. I understand a little better why they say the things they do. Their reasons may be deeper than what I think.

I am glad I read your book at this time. It is helping me understand myself and the people around me better. Once again, I thank you deeply for writing this book.

Sincerely,

Nandita Chittajallu